

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT TO TRINIDAD/TOBAGO BY MERVYN DYMALLY, LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR-ELECT OF CALIFORNIA

FOR IPS, IBS, ILA

1. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT MERVYN M. DYMALLY, 48, OF CALIFORNIA RETURNED TO HIS NATIVE TRINIDAD THIS WEEK FOR A SHORT VISIT WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS SOON AFTER HIS ELECTORAL TRIUMPH ON NOVEMBER 5 AS ONE OF THE TWO BLACK LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS ELECTED THIS YEAR IN THE U.S.

2. DYMALLY LEFT TRINIDAD IN 1946 FOR THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE FIRST ATTENDED LINCOLN UNIVERSITY IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI. HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE AND THE M.A. DEGREE IN GOVERNMENT FROM SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY. HE HAS BEEN A LECTURER IN GOVERNMENT AT CLAREMONT AND WHITTIER COLLEGES AND IS THE AUTHOR OF "THE BLACK POLITICIAN, HIS STRUGGLE FOR POWER." HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN CALIFORNIA BEGAN IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY IN 1962 AND IN 1966 HE BECAME THE FIRST BLACK TO BE ELECTED TO THE STATE SENATE, REPRESENTING THE DISTRICT COMPRISING DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES AND WATTS, WHERE HE SERVES UNTIL HIS INAUGURATION AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN JANUARY.

3. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY USIS NOVEMBER 26, DEMOCRAT DYMALLY REMARKED THAT "MY ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN CALIFORNIA IS INDICATIVE OF AN EMERGING TREND IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE MINORITIES, ESPECIALLY BLACKS, ARE

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USING POLITICS AS THEIR NEW CUTTING EDGE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

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AS FOUNDER OF A QUARTERLY JOURNAL "THE BLACK POLITICIAN," DYMALLY NOTED THAT HE IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO DETECT THE GREAT UPSURGE IN THE NUMBER OF ELECTED BLACK OFFICIALS IN THE U.S., AND HE CITED HIS OWN RECENT ELECTION IN A STATE OF 22 MILLION PEOPLE AS AN EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT.

4. DURING THE WIDE-RANGING PRESS CONFERENCE, THE NEW LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DISCUSSED THE ADVANCED SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA, FROM PRIMARY THROUGH JUNIOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY AND SAID THAT AMONG OTHER DUTIES IN HIS NEW OFFICE, HE WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. REMARKING THAT "I HAVE THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE LEADING PROPONENT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA," HE EMPHASIZED THAT "WOMEN ARE EMERGING AS A VERY STRONG POLITICAL FORCE IN THE UNITED STATES," AND HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD AUTHORED BILLS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND SEX DISCRIMINATION.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE U.S., DYMALLY POINTED OUT THAT BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS ARE NOW "VERY TOUGH" IN PROHIBITING IT, AND THAT FEDERAL AND STATE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICES ARE DILIGENT ABOUT ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT. HE DESCRIBED NEW TRENDS OF MINORITY GROUPS TO PRESERVE THEIR OWN ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL VALUES AS A NATURAL AND POSITIVE PHENOMENON.

6. BOTH MORNING DAILIES ON NOVEMBER 27 CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES WITH PHOTOS ABOUT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.
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